

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed 13 January 2006, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Previously, Claims 1, 2, 4, 9-13, 16-21, 23-26, 28-30, 32, 34, 36 and 38 were pending in this application. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1, 2, 4, 20, 21, 23, 29, 30 and 32 are allowed. Claims 9-13 and 16-19 are rejected for matters of form under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 24-26, 28, 34, 36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. In addition Claim 25 was objected to.

With the above amendment, Claim 9 has been amended, and Claims 24-26, 28, 34, 36 and 38 have been canceled. After entry of this Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4, 9-13, 16-21, 23, 29-30 and 32 are currently pending. Reconsideration of this claim set as amended is respectfully requested.

Based on this Amendment, the Applicants submit that the case is in a condition for immediate allowance. In particular, the Applicant notes the following:

Claim 1 and its dependent claims have been previously indicated as allowable. They have not been amended.

Claim 9 has been amended so that limitations relying upon the presence of "a first computing unit" are recited after the introduction of the first computing unit in the claim. The Applicants submit that this eliminates the lack of antecedent basis previously found in independent Claim 9. The Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the §112 rejection from Claim 9 and those claims that depend from Claim 9. With this amendment, the Applicants submit that Claims 9-13 and 16-19 are now in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow these claims.

Claim 20 and its dependent claims have been previously indicated as allowable. They have not been amended.

Claim 24 and its dependent claims have been canceled.

Claim 29 and its dependent claims have been previously indicated as allowable. They have not been amended.

Application No. 09/681,652
Amendment dated 13 April 2006
Reply to Office Action of 13 January 2006

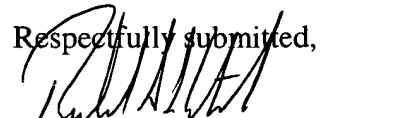
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Claim 34 and its dependent claims have been canceled.

Every pending claims is now drawn to subject matter that the Examiner has indicated was allowable over the cited prior art. The Applicants submit that the case is in a form for immediate allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw any rejections to the pending claims and pass Claims 1, 2, 4, 9-13, 16-21, 23, 29-30 and 32 to allowance.

If any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the number provided below so that a resolution can be most effectively reached.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date